

## TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, Editor and Manager

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## SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES.

Any attempt to gain votes in the Western states by retaining a high duty on raw wool and reducing the rate on cloth and yarns will result in ruining the sheep business of the mountain states just as surely as if wool was put on the free list. There is some danger that this may be done as an election dodge under the plea of reducing the cost of clothing and protecting the sheep raiser at the same time. The annual wool review issued by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers deals with the wool trade of the whole world and thoroughly proves the weakness of the sheep raiser's position in event of any change in the tariff.

The mills of this country are the only possible consumers of wool produced on the western ranges, the industry would become extinct as far as the states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Nevada are concerned. As it is the number of sheep in these western states is decreasing; and the increases noticed in eastern and middle west states are due to the demand for better mutton than the mountain ranges produce. Some wool will be produced as long as mutton is eaten, but it is only a by-product in that case.

Tariff agitation has depressed the price of wool and caused the mills to hold off. Mill owners do not expect an increase in the duty on raw wool, so the chances are all in their favor in waiting until they see whether the duty will be lowered. The special session of congress last spring hurt the wool grower badly because it came at the very time his wool was ready for market, and no one could guess what would happen to schedule "K."

Out of 39,761,000 sheep in the country last spring, 25,435,000 were in the western states; and out of the total decrease of 2,238,500 from the preceding year a loss of 1,815,000 fell on the western states. The domestic clip, exclusive of pulleys, this year was 277,547,000, a decrease of 3,814,850 from last year; but the output of pulled wool increased about 1,000,000 pounds and this brought the domestic total up to 318,547,900 pounds.

Though the number of sheep is decreasing the slaughter for food purposes continues to grow and is estimated at 14,000,000 to 15,000,000 a year, which must nearly equal the lamb crop. This proves that the price of mutton, and especially of lamb, will have to rise if the duty on wool is lowered. Sheep are now raised for mutton alone to some extent, but the market for them is limited to those cities where extra prices can be got for fancy qualities of meat. But the average wage-earner finds mutton the cheapest meat, as a rule, that he can buy, and what he eats is western mutton and lamb. There are just about enough sheep in the country now to supply the food demand. As soon as the duty on wool is lowered the number of sheep on the farms and ranges will fall and will continue to fall until the higher price of mutton makes up the loss on the wool. As was recently pointed out in these columns, the man with a family will then pay dollars more for food when he saves cents on clothing. The figures supplied by this wool report prove that this will be the inevitable result.

The cost of wool has very little to do with the cost of a suit of clothes. It is the labor put on the raw wool in turning it into the cloth and then into finished clothing that counts. It costs twice as much here to scour the wool and put it in the form of a top for spinning as it does in England, and it costs about 50 per cent more to spin the yarn and weave the cloth on this side of the Atlantic. Labor gets all that difference in cost. The workman pays more for clothing here, but wage-earners in mills and tailor shops get ten dollars in extra wages above the foreign scale for every dollar that the duty adds to the price of the suit of clothes.

Grant that free trade would make clothing cheaper. Take off the duty on wool and twenty-five dollar suit will cost a dollar less, and the sheep-herder loses his job. Take off the duty on yarn and the cost comes down to twenty-three dollars, and the spinner is out of work. And so it goes until the duty is taken off of finished clothing and the price drops to say nine dollars a suit. The tailors and other makers of clothing now earn \$151,000,000 a year, and most of them will have nothing to do and no money with which to buy clothes.

Why travel a road when every step that is

taken along it means loss of employment to someone and higher cost of living in the shape of food for all?

## FEDERAL INCORPORATION.

Federal incorporation or license of companies doing an interstate or international business was favored by George W. Perkins when he appeared before the senate committee on interstate commerce two weeks ago. He also recommended publicity, the imprisonment of individuals and special investigation of the aims of such corporations. He told the committee that domestic trade was not expanding as it should because corporations did not know where they stood until they had been tried in the courts; and that other countries were profiting greatly by this lack of enterprise in the United States.

What Mr. Perkins recommends is nothing more than is done in other countries. In Canada, Great Britain, France and Germany corporations receive licenses or charters from the central government of the country and their operations are directed by explicit laws governing joint stock companies. They labor under no uncertainty as to their rights, and in some cases, as in Canada for instance, an opinion on a doubtful law can be obtained from the supreme court without waiting for contentious litigation to settle the question.

Mr. Perkins points out that we are now collecting taxes from corporations, which in itself is the first step in establishing the principle of publicity between corporations and government. It ought not to be unwise or difficult, therefore, to immediately expand the powers of the department of commerce and labor, with regard to publicity and control, sufficiently to create a board of control with power to license such interstate companies as, in the judgment of such board, are clearly working for and not against public interest. In other words, in such cases substitute a board of this sort for long-drawn-out law suits. This would have the immediate effect of placing any company able to secure such a license in position where it would know that it was proceeding along lines not in violation of national laws or federal authority. Such concerns as could not or did not wish to meet this test would then have no right to complain if they were proceeded against under the Sherman law.

In this matter, Mr. Perkins believes immediate relief could be provided. At the same time the questions surrounding the Sherman law and national incorporation for interstate industrial companies would be under an investigation that would be proceeding in a calm and orderly manner, with a view to reaching ultimately a permanent solution of the whole question. Meanwhile, uncertainty would be dispelled, yet we would only be building up our present department of commerce and labor and bureau of corporations into live, vital bureau—much in the same way that we gradually built up the interstate commission by extending and enlarging its powers from time to time.

At the present time three large corporations which push their export trade actively and thus bring money into the country are either indicted or threatened with prosecution. All three are directly affected by the completion of German corporations fostered by the extraordinary liberal "cartel" law of that country. All their foreign competitors can go ahead without doubt as to their position; but these American companies are now endangered by their patriotic activity in foreign markets. Part of the cases against them rests on the ground that they have sold their merchandise abroad for less than the domestic price. Such a charge would be laughed at in any foreign country.

For years Germany sold beet sugar in England at less than the domestic price, and the German government fostered this trade by paying bounties. We, on the other hand, would make our industries pay fines for doing such a thing. By harrying our big manufacturing corporations we are aiding other countries to induce them to establish factories abroad. They now have two reasons instead of one for erecting plants and making goods abroad which they have hitherto turned out in this country to the special advantage of the American workman.

Mr. Perkins appeals to congress to study conditions abroad and at home and then try to do something that will help instead of hurting both capital and labor in the United States.

According to the report of the director of the mint, the world's gold production for 1911 is about \$466,000,000, an increase of \$14,000,000 over that of last year, four times that of twenty-five years ago and the greatest on record. Deposits of gold in United States mints for this year are about \$120,082,000, or about \$350,000 less than last year, but these figures include gold extracted from imported ores as well as the product of domestic mines. Such a vast increase in production in recent years probably has something to do with the high cost of necessities of life, for gold is merchandise as well as money and the supply naturally affects the price as measured by other things.

An England suffragette declares that the American women should learn to throw a brick straight. The American women are willing, but brick-throwing is not an accomplishment easily mastered by the sex in any country. Come to think of it, the English suffragettes are not so proficient in it themselves. When they throw a brick at a member of Commons, they usually hit a lord, and vice versa.

A factory in Tien Tsin, China, has been given a contract for 70,000 pairs of shoes for the Chinese army at \$1 a pair. The news says it will buy American leather for the job. The meaning between the lines of such an item will be appreciated by Americans who have to pay from \$3 to \$6 for shoes made from the same quality of leather.

Paraguay has announced that it will reduce the price of beef. Evidently Paraguay is taking advantage of the high cost of living in other countries to make a bid for population.

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